



## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Yushi HINO et al.

Attn: BOX PCT

Serial No. NEW

Docket No. 2002-0379A

Filed March 20, 2002

COIN SORTING APPARATUS AND COIN RECEIVING SYSTEM
[Corresponding to PCT/JP01/08109
Filed September 18, 2001]

## **PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced U.S. patent application please amend the application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS

## Please amend the claims as follows:

3. (Amended) The coin sorting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the main sorting means comprises:

a guide passage for substantially horizontally guiding coins to be sorted, one by one; conveying means for conveying the coins along the guide passage; and a plurality of sorting units each for sorting out coins of one of the denominations, arranged at intervals along the guide passage.